Dux bonis omnibus appellans.

THE

Swans Welcome

To His Royall Highneſs The

DUKE.

OR,

Some Remarks upon that Note-worthy Paſſage, mention'd in the True Domeſtick Intelligence, *Dated* Octob. 14. 1679. *concerning a Company of* Swans, *more than ordinary gathered together, at his* Royall Highneſs *Landing.*

I Hope my *Flagellum Mercurii Antiducalis* hath given the World ſome ſatisfaction, as to my *Day-Fatality*, ſo much carp'd at by *Romes Packet, Septemb.* 5.) as alſo by the *Touch of the Times*: I ſhall onely ſay, That even the pure ſincere *Cloak-party* themſelves have taken notice of the Fatality of Days; (for *page* 367. of the *Memoires of the Lives and Actions of* James *and* William *Dukes of* Hamilton, ſays, *That the Rout of Duke* Hamilton's *Army was received with great joy by the* Kirk-Party *in* Scotland, *who Religiouſly obſerved, That the Diviſion of the Duke's Army (which was its ruine) was upon the* 17. *of* Auguſt, *which was the day on which the Covenant was made, thence called by ſome,* St. Covenants Day.

But to my preſent matter.

I conclude my *Decaſtich*, in the Fatality, with this *Engliſh Verſion*,

Great Duke, rejoice in this your day of Birth;
And may ſuch Omens *ſtill increaſe your mirth.*

Since which Compoſition (which was *Anno* 1677.) ſome kind *Omens* have befall'n his *R. H.* as the 3. of *March's Dedications*, with (though derided by the *Time Toucher*) St. *Felix* day, (29 *Day*) obſerved by the Publiſher of the *Royal Effigies*, and ſince recited by me in my late *Flagellum.*

And St. *Lucie's* day, memorably obſerved by the two eminent Brethren St. *Marſhes*, in the Birth of *Henry le Grand*, King of *France*, ſufficiently excuſe, allow, and protect; the words are theſe, *He was born the* 13 Octob. *St.* Lucies *day, as if by a good* Augury *to be the Light and Ornament of the Princes of his time: A Day remarkable for the Winter Solſtice, and eſteem'd the moſt happy point of all Nativities.* Thus they.

2. The accident of the Swans accosting the Duke at his Landing.

That Birds, some are *Male-ominous*, some *Bene-ominous*, (ill or well boding) Authors give many instances, and I am able my self to particularise; I will onely mention three or four.

Charles (from his stature called the *Little*, a man of admirable Courage and Conduct) King of *Jerusalem* and *Hungaria*, and many other Provinces, had at his Coronation several ill Omens; amongst many others, a multitude of Crows seated themselves upon the Royal Palace; and immediately after his Coronation, he was traiterously and miserably massacred. See the fore-recited Authors, in their Genealogick History of the House of *France*.

Ovid, lib. 5. of his *Metam.* in his story of *Ascalaphus*, terms the Owl, *Ignavus Bubo dirum mortalibus Omen*. *Lib.* 6. he calls it, *Prophanus Bubo*; and says, It sate upon the Bride-bed of *Tereus* and *Progne*, fore-boding the unluckiness of the Marriage. And * *lib.* 15. he terms it, *Stygius Bubo*.

Portents of Cæsars.

Tristia mille locis Stygius sedit omnia Bubo.

Look the Book of Martyrs, (*Sub. H.* 5.) and you find the Pourtraict of the Council of *Constance*, and the ill-ominous Owl that appeared there, prodigiously presaging the Deposition of Pope *John* 24. But see *Camerarius*, *p.* 244. who elegantly relates the story, and highly praises the excellent Qualifications of the Pope.

Melificium Historicum says, Two Eagles sate upon the Palace-top a whole day, when *Alexander* the Great was born, which the Sooth-sayers averr'd to portend the double Empire of *Europe* and *Asia*.

But let us see what Authors say of the candid Swan; all esteem him for a Bird-Royal, and oftentimes in Coats and Crests, we meet him either Crown'd, or Coronally Collar'd: And he was the Badge of several great *English* Princes, of which, anon.

Mr. *Guillim* (but indeed Dr. *Barkham*, as Mr. *Fuller* avers in his *Worthies*) says, He is a Bird of great Beauty, and Strength also; and this is reported of him, That he uses not his strength to prey or tyrannize over any other Fowl, but onely to be revenged of such as offer him wrong; in which case, says *Aristotle*, he often vanquishes the *Eagle*.

Pierius says, He signifies purity of mind; nay, *Apollo* himself.

Now in antient time he was consecrated to *Apollo*, *Apollo* signifying nothing else but the *Sun*, which is *Oculus & Luse Mundi*, *Gen.* 1. 16, 17, 18. *Apollo* is sometimes called *Liber Pater*, a Liberal Father, (the Latin word bears that sense as well as others) and that is confirmed, *Deut.* 33. 14. Astrologers termed him, *Rex Planetarum*, and says, He gives Rule, Riches, and Honour, (is Significator of Emperors, Kings, Princes, *&c.*) The Swan is the Bird of the Sun, and also of his Royal Highness.

Martianus says, Shipmen take it for good luck, if in peril of Shipwrack they meet Swans. I hope the attendance of these Swans (the matter in hand) forebodes his *R. H.* happy deliverance from all his stormy, tempestuous, vexatious troubles.

Let us see what brave Princes have used this happy Bird (commended by St. *Ambrose*) for their Cognizance.

First, *Edward* 3. (a brave Prince as ever was, and concern'd in the Auspicious Fate of 14 *Octob.*) used it a Tournament, being embroider'd on his Shield and Surcoats with this Motto.

Mr. *Ashmole* his *Gartel*, 185.

Hay, hay, the Wyth Swan,
By Gods Soul I am thy Man.

2. *Thomas*

2. *Thomas* of *Woodstock*, Duke of *Glocester*, uſed it continually. *John Gower*, that famous Poet, much bewails the murder of that excellent Prince; *Cygnus de corde Benignus*, oftentimes giving him the Epithet of *Swan*. *See Weaver*, 638.

A Swan, with a Coronet about his Neck, was one of the Supporters to King *Hen.*4. (as Mr. *Sandford* in his *Gen. Hiſtory*, 258.) A Prince of ſingular Valour and Clemency; for he refuſed not the Duels with *Tho. Mowbray*, Duke of *Norfolk*, (ſee *Stow*, *anno* 1378.) And ſecondly, He pardon'd *Owen Glendowrdy*, that had ſo damnably plagu'd him; (ſee *Stow*, *anno* 1401, 1402. *Bis.* 1403, 1404, 1405, &c.) at the requeſt only of *David Holbeach* Eſq; that was but a Servant of his own, and formerly Acquaintance of the ſaid *Owens*, (*ibid.* 1404.

Certainly he was an admirable Prince, by that wiſe and honeſt Advice he gave his Son upon his Death-bed, (as *R. Brook*, p.27) *viz.* to miniſter the Laws indifferently, to eaſe the oppreſſed, to beware of Flatterers, not to defer Juſtice, nor to be ſparing of Mercy. *Puniſh* (quoth he) *the Oppreſſors of thy People, ſo ſhalt thou obtain favour of God, and love of thy Subjects, who whilſt they have wealth, ſo long ſhalt thou have obedience, but being made poor by Oppreſſions, will be ever ready for Rebellion.* But let me not forget, that before he came to be King, the Swan was his Badge, and was imbroider'd upon his Capariſons, when he entred the Liſt aforeſaid, againſt the famous Duke his Adverſary, (as a Mss. given to the Heralds Office, by Sir *William Dugd.* Garter.

The Seat of *Cicely Nevill*, Dutcheſs of *York*, (a little Woman, but famous among our Writers for her great Spirit) was ſupported by a Swan; (ſee Mr. *Sandford* Laur. Herate, p.352.) She was Mother to *Edw.*4. and *Rich.*3. as alſo to *George*, Duke of *Clarence*, (Princes of great Valour and Wit.) She ſaw firſt her Husband and third Son ſlain: Secondly, She ſaw the two Princes her Grand-children, murder'd by their own Uncle, and her Son: Thirdly, She ſaw her ſaid Son alſo ſlain. Yet bearing all theſe Crievances with a moſt even and invincible mind, ſhe lived to the 11th. of *Hen.*7. admirably making good——*Mala ſunt ſuperanda ferendo.*

And ſuch as theſe were the Princes of the *Swan*.

There was an Order of Knight-hood of the Swan in *Cleveland*, (as ſays *Savine*) who alſo affirms, the Princes of that Houſe, have ever born that beautiful and generous Bird for their Deviſe, Creſt and Supporters.

I need make but little Comment upon what hath been ſaid. I have hinted before the generous Nature of the Swan, being like that of the heroick Lion; and he cannot but be the *Duke*'s Bird. My advice is,

Deſiſtant Ranæ torvum irritare Leonem.

The Lion is by nature kind, though bold,
If that the Beaſts themſelves in duty hold.

Cygnus de Corde Benignus.

Ovid, *lib.* 2. tells us, That *Cycnus*, King of *Liguria*, grieving for his Kinſman *Phaeton*, was turned into a Swan, a Royal Bird then. And he deſcribes his Nature thus,

Stagna petit, patuloſq; lacus, ignemq, peroſus.
Quæ colat elegit contraria flumina flammis.

Rivers and ſpreading lakes are his delight,
Which are to flames and fires quite oppoſite.

This

This Great Duke hath been Lord High Admiral of *Arragon*, and also of *England*, (*Maximus Marinus Maria petens*) hath had great Command upon the vast Lake of the World, (*viz.* the Sea.)

Assm. p.119. He hath been *Immensi Tremor Oceani*, (as Sir *Tho. Higgens*, in his Excellent Ode, which henceforth I shall call *Swan-Song*, (imitating *Leland*.)

And as to that damned Reflexion, impos'd upon the World by a late Rogue, (*Septemb.*5. *Rome's Packet*) this Poet, by a divine prævious inspiration, long since hath foretold the contrary. And the divine Providence will in due time, (as in the case of *Joseph* and *Susanna*) confound the Faces of impudent and seditious Detractors.

A latter Motto (of King *Charles* of Blessed Memory) as upon his Royal Pourtraicture in his Book, and in several Churches may appear, was *Clarior è Tenebris.*

Even so his most Illustrious Son, *è tenebrosis Calumniarum Cimmeriis, clarissimus, purissimus, ac Columba innocentissimus (ad instar Cygni candidissimus) olim orietur.*

Out of the black and dark Sullies of ignominious Calumniations he shall arise, clear as the Sun, innocent as the Dove, white as the candid Swan.

In my *Flagellum Mercurii Antiducalis*, I mention'd the evil Spirit that we read of, *Judges* 9. And I now add, his *R. H.* condition at present is like the Kingly *David's* (so much celebrated by the excellent Marquess *Virgilio Malvezzi*) 1 *Sam. chap.* 30. *vers.*6. *The people*, &c. But he comforts himself in the Lord his God, *Acquiescat & videbit salutem Domini*, Isa.52.10.

Ovid, lib. 7. fab. 10. *Flebile principium melior fortuna sequetur.*

Since I had finisht this, I heard of the Artillery's solemn and cordial Invitation to his *R. H.* to congratulate his happy Return.——The Duke was usher'd into the World with Medals, intimating the very Circumstance——*Mille Cohortes*, (see Mr. *Sandford*, p.562.)

Neither am I now such an impertinent Wizzard, as *Rome's* Packet, *Sept.*5. would make me; for I aver'd the Duke's Return would be accompanied with Joy and Feasting.

And it seems the Artillery Cohort begins it.

Great *Duke*, Thee safely home return'd we see,
Feastings and gladsom Healths intended be.
The Military Band make first their fair Address,
The Senators and Citizens must do no less.
Their *Swans* have shewn them what they ought to do,
They are *Apollo's* Birds, their love is true.

In my Fatality, I would have mention'd the good Omen of the Medal and Motto, (for I have it in my Notes) but I was afraid the capricious, malicious, Anti-Monarchical Crew, would have made malevolent Reflexions upon it, as tending to a standing Army, and gladiatory Government.

But providentially the suspicious Invitation intervening, I become bold and daring to publish it.

FINIS.